

## **WSF TERMINAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

### **BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
December 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

Prepared by: Celia Schorr, Acting Director, Customer and Community Relations

Reviewed by: Sam Kuntz, Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Mike Anderson, Acting Assistant Secretary

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide an update on the Washington State Ferries' Terminal Improvement Program

### **ACTION/OUTCOME:**

This briefing is for information only and no action will be required of the Commission.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Commission and the Legislature have approved and allocated funds for a variety of major terminal preservation and improvement projects.

### **DISCUSSION:**

WSF will report on the current status of improvement projects at the following ferry terminals:

- Mukilteo
- Anacortes
- Bainbridge Island
- Edmonds
- Seattle

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

This briefing is for information only.

For further information contact Celia Schorr, 206-515-3918 or Russ East, Director of Terminal Engineering, 206-515-3918

**WSF BUDGET PROVISO REPORTS**

**BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
December 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

Prepared by: Sam Kuntz, Chief Financial Officer  
Reviewed by: Celia Schorr, Acting Director, Customer and Community Relations  
Approved by: Mike Anderson, Acting Executive Director

**PURPOSE:**

To provide a summary of three reports submitted to the Legislature as required by provisos included in the 2004 Supplemental Transportation Budget Bill – 2474.

**ACTION/OUTCOME:**

This briefing is for information only and no action will be required of the Commission.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Legislature passed the 2004 Supplemental Transportation Budget Bill – 2474, which included provisos requiring several reports to be provided by Washington State Ferries (WSF) to the Legislature by December 1, 2004 as follows:

*Section 223 (12)*

The Washington State Ferries shall evaluate the benefits and costs of selling the depreciation rights to ferries purchased by the state in the future through sale and lease-back agreements, as permitted under RCW 47.60.010. The department is authorized to issue a request for proposal to solicit proposals from potential buyers. The department must report to the transportation committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004, on the options, strategies, and recommendations for sale/lease-back agreements on existing ferry boats as well as future ferry boat purchases.

*Section 212 (3)*

The department shall contract with the department of information services to conduct a survey that identifies possible opportunities and benefits associated with siting and use of technology and wireless facilities located on state right of way authorized by RCW 47.60.140. The department shall submit a report regarding the survey to the appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2004.

*Section 212 (2) (a)*

...[funds] are provided solely for implementation of a new revenue collection system, including the integration of the regional fare coordination system (smart card), at the Washington state ferries. By December 1st of each year, an annual update must be provided to the legislative transportation committee concerning the status of implementing and completing this project.

*Section 223 (11)*

The Washington State Ferries must work with the department's information technology division to implement a new revenue collection system, including the integration of the regional fare coordination system (smart card). Each December, annual updates are to be provided to the transportation committees of the legislature concerning the status of implementing and completing this project, with updates concluding the first December after full project implementation.

**DISCUSSION:**

WSF has completed the studies and reports required by these provisos and has submitted written reports to the Legislature. Copies of these reports have also been provided to the Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This briefing is for information only.

For further information contact Sam Kuntz, CFO, Washington State Ferries at 206-515-3403.

## **WSF 10-YEAR PASSENGER VISION AND MULTI-MODAL STRATEGY**

Briefing Paper  
Prepared for the  
December 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

Prepared by: Ray Deardorf, Planning Director  
Reviewed by: Sam Kuntz, Chief Financial Officer  
Approved by: W. Michael Anderson, Acting Executive Director

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide a summary of the 10-Year Passenger Vision and Multi-modal Strategy as required by Section 506, ESHB 2474 from the 2004 Legislative session.

### **ACTION/OUTCOME:**

This briefing is for information only and no action will be required of the Commission.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The legislature passed the 2004 Supplemental Transportation Budget Bill – 2474, which included a proviso requiring a report to be provided by Washington State Ferries (WSF) to the Legislature by December 15, 2004 including the following:

#### Section 506 (1)

...the Washington State Department of Transportation shall develop a vision statement and 10-year strategy for the future development of Washington's multimodal water-based transportation system.

- (a) This strategy shall recommend the most appropriate means of moving foot passengers across Central Puget Sound, using Washington State Ferries, alternative operators, or a combination of both, in the immediate future and over the longer term:
  - (i) Giving priority to those routes where passenger service likely will be provided at least for the near term on passenger-only vessels, such as Vashon-Seattle, Kingston-Seattle, Southworth-Seattle, and Clinton-Seattle.

### **DISCUSSION:**

A thorough analysis of potential ridership demand in the Central Puget Sound region, analysis of passenger capacity on existing WSF passenger-vehicle ferries, existing and future landside multi-modal high capacity transit, and the four passenger-only routes resulted in the following conclusions:

The Clinton (South Whidbey Island)-Seattle market is much more effectively served by the existing Mukilteo-Clinton passenger-vehicle ferries connecting with the Sounder Commuter Rail from Mukilteo to Seattle than by a separate passenger-only ferry;

The Bainbridge and Kingston passenger-vehicle ferry routes have adequate passenger capacity to accommodate projected demand up until 2015. At that time the Bainbridge route is projected to reach passenger seating capacity on the peak commuter trips. The inauguration of a private passenger-only service between Seattle and Kingston is projected to accommodate some of the demand that otherwise would go to the Seattle-Bainbridge route and provide some years of passenger congestion relief on that route. Also, enhancement of the Sounder Commuter Rail operation in Edmonds can also absorb some of the demand that might otherwise go to Seattle-Bainbridge on the Edmonds-Kingston route, where there is ample passenger capacity.

The Southworth service area offers a potential market for passenger-only riders. WSF could serve these riders more effectively than it does now via a ferry transfer to the Vashon-Seattle passenger-only route by reactivating the MV Chinook and MV Snohomish and operating two round trips during each peak period serving all three ports Seattle, Vashon, and Southworth. To accomplish this would take an investment in the MV Chinook and MV Snohomish, already in the fleet, and terminal modifications to Vashon and Southworth. However, it would immediately solve the issue of having to replace the MV Kalama and MV Skagit which are now in service on the Vashon-Seattle route and would allow a larger and faster vessel to serve both ports directly.

A plan for a local option has emerged in the South Kitsap area also, involving a private operator running from Harper (near Southworth) to downtown Seattle. If implemented, this would likely divert sufficient riders from the current Vashon-Seattle passenger-only route leading to consideration of a smaller replacement vessel for that route or other options.

A summary report will be provided to the Commission.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

This briefing is for information only.

For further information contact Ray Deardorf, Planning Director, Washington State Ferries at 206-515-3491.